

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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TAGS: PFOR YU CU

SUBJECT : RAUL ROA GARICA VISITS YUGOSLAVIA

REF (A) BELGRADE 0950; (B) BELGRADE 0951

1. DR. RAUL ROA GARCIA (CUBAN MINISTER FOREIGN RELATIONS)
AUG 27 COMPLETED SEVEN DAY VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA. DELEGATION
MEMBERS INCLUDED FONMIN DEPARTMENT HEADS SIDROK RAMOS AND
ALBERTO BOSA; LOWER RANKING FUNCTIONARIES SIOMARA LANSIS,
RAFAEL HERNANDEZ AND LURDES URUTIA (NAMES TRANSLITERATED).
VISIT FRON-PAGED POLITIKA, BORBA, EXCEPT AUG 23 EDITIONS.

2. THIS VISIT CONTINUES RECENT SPATE OF CUBAN-YUGOSLAV
OFFICIAL CONTACTS: STANE DOLANC (SECRETARY, EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE LCY) VISITED CUBA JUNE 1973; TITO MET WITH
FIDEL CASTRO AT ALGIERS CONFERENCE SEPT 1973; RAUL CASTRO
RUZ (1ST VICE PRIMIN) VISITED YUGOSLAVIA FEB 1974 ON WAY
TO USSR: DELEGATION HEADED BY CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ
(VICE PRIMIN FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS) VISITED IN JULY FOR
10TH LCY CONGRESS.

3. ROA AND PARTY MET WITH MILOS MINIC (FEDERAL SEC FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS) AUG 21 THEN SPENT NEXT TWO DAYS TOURING
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SOUTHERN REPUBLICS AND DALMATIAN COAST. IN AUG 23 SPEECH

AT BAR, ROA EXPRESSED CUBAN THANKS FOR YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC SUPPORT DURING WORST DAYS OF AMERICAN BLOCKADE. ROA MET EDVARD KARDELJ (MEMBER, SFRY PRESIDENCY) AT BLEND AUG 24, PRESIDENT TITO AT BRIONI AUG 25, DZEMAL BIJEDIC (PRESIDENT FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL) AND MINIC AGAIN IN BELGRADE AUG 26.

4. IN AUG 26 TV INTERVIEW ROA STATED "LATIN AMERICA HAS CEASED TO BE THE BACKYARD OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM TODAY.... THE BLOCKADE OF CUBA IS FALLING APART AND NOTHING CAN SAVE IT ANY LONGER." ROA SAID THERE COULD BE NO DIALOGUE WITH THE US UNTIL BLOCKADE LIFTED.

5. JOINT COMMUNIQUE CLOSELY PARALLELED RAUL CASTRO FEB COMMUNIQUE (BELGRADE 0950). PREDICTABLE OBEISANCES MADE TO NONALIGNMENT, INCREASED ECONOMIC COOPERATION, PERFIDY OF ISRAELI AGGRESSION, SUPPORT FOR PLO, SOLIDARITY AGAINST "IMPERIALIST AND REACTIONARY ASSAULTS" (INDOCHINA, CHILE); AND DEMANDS AGAIN MADE THAT "BLOCKADE" OF CUBA BE LIFTED, AND US EVACUATE GUANTANAMO. CYPRUS CRISIS AND GUINEA-BISSAU INDEPENDENCE

ADDED TO LITANY. NO NEW AGREEMENTS ANNOUNCED. ROA SAW TITO WHILE RAUL CASTRO DID NOT. HOWEVER, TITO WAS IN SECLUSION ON DOCTORS' ORDERS LAST FEB.

6. IN CONTRAST TO RAUL CASTRO VISIT, YUGOSLAV HANDLING OF ROA VISIT MORE MUTED, CARE FOR US SENSITIVITIES SHOWN IN WELCOMING TOASTS. CASTRO VISIT HAD OCCASIONED US COMPLAINT BECAUSE OF STRIDENT ANTI-US TONE (BELGRADE 0951).

7. ONE NEW DEVELOPMENT: ROA INVITED MINIC (WHO ACCEPTED) TO VISIT CUBA. FIDEL CASTRO AND TITO HAD ACCEPTED INVITATIONS TO EXCHANGE VISIT FOLLOWING RAUL CASTRO VISIT, BUT NOTHING HAS COME OF THIS YET.
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